03 40 #6

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT	:	ZHANG, et al.
SERIAL NO	:	09/976,346
FILED	:	October 12, 2001
TITLE	:	BIODEGRADEABLE PLANT PROTEIN COMPOSITES AND RELATED METHODS
Grp./A.U.	:	
Examiner	:	
Conf. No.	:	2317
Docket No.	:	P04706US2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment into the case.

In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph beginning at p. 6, line 1 and ending at p. 6, line 2.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at p. 28, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 17th day of July, 2002.

Wendy K. Marsh

The inventors have also demonstrated that the plant protein are biodegradable by monitoring the evolution of carbon dioxide when samples were subjected to soil, sand, compost, and manure systems, as well as from marine systems. Attached as Figure 14 is a graph illustrating the percent of carbon dioxide released relative to theoretical CO_2 ($ThCO_2$) from these systems using the composites of this invention (Soy protein/starch/glycerol, SCG plastic,) versus control. Figure 14 demonstrates that Applicant's plant protein composites are highly biodegradable as shown by the high amount of CO_2 produced.

REMARKS

Applicants have now amended the specification to delete reference to Figure 15.

It is believed the application is in a prima facie condition for allowance. Allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT — VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification

Paragraph beginning at line 1 of p. 6 and ending at line 2 of p. 6 has been deleted.

Paragraph beginning at line 14 of p. 28 has been amended as follows:

The inventors have also demonstrated that the plant protein are biodegradable by monitoring the evolution of carbon dioxide when samples were subjected to soil, sand, compost, and manure systems, as well as from marine systems. Attached as [Figures] Figure 14 [and 15 are graphs] is a graph illustrating the percent of carbon dioxide released relative to theoretical CO_2 ($ThCO_2$) from these systems using the composites of this invention (Soy protein/starch/glycerol, SCG plastic,) versus control. [Figures] Figure 14 [and 15 demonstrate] demonstrates that Applicant's plant protein composites are highly biodegradable as shown by the high amount of CO_2 produced.